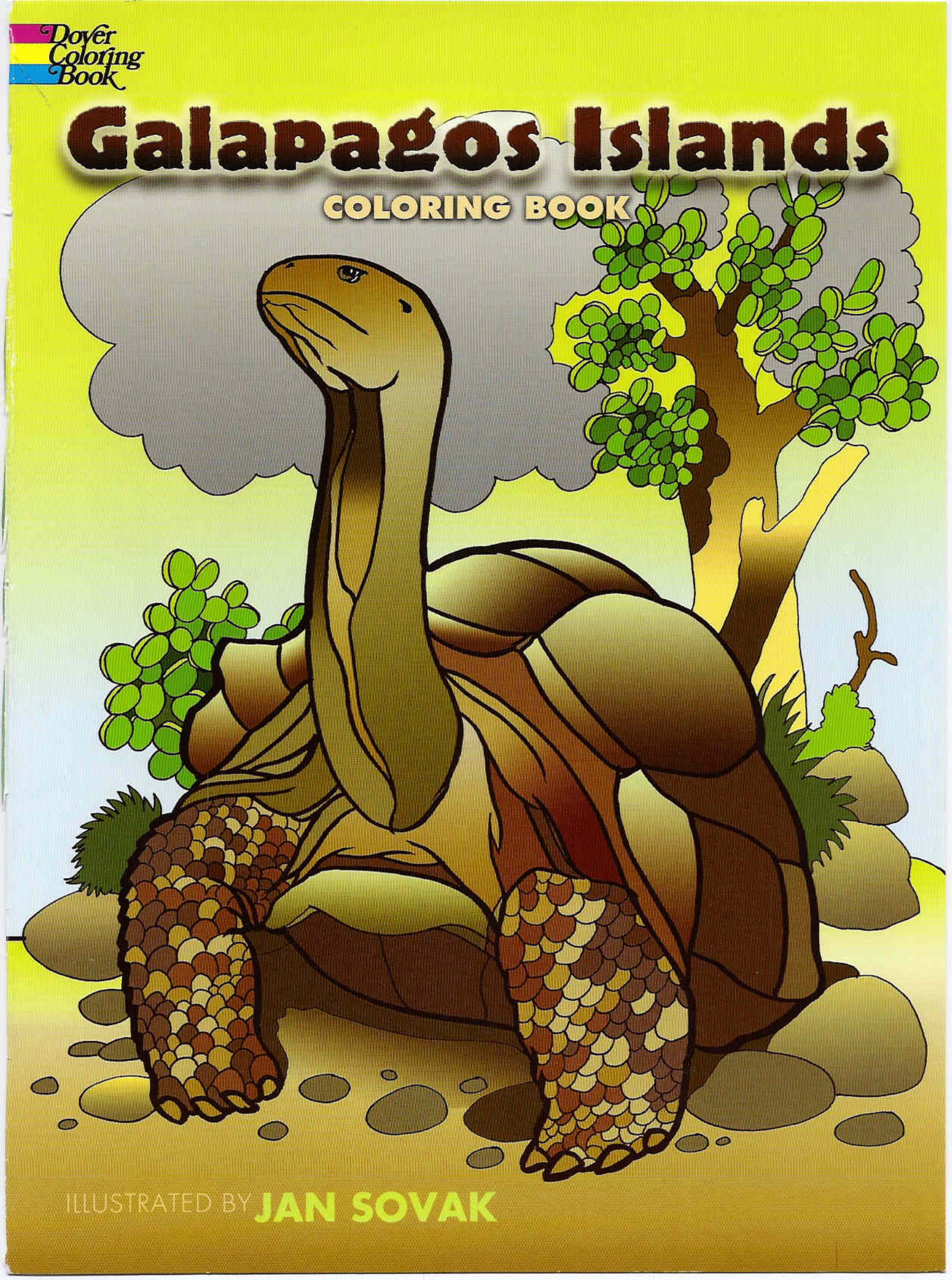
VISIT…

Dover Coloring Book

Galapagos Islands

COLORING BOOK



ILLUSTRATED BY **JAN SOVAK**

Galapagos Islands

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JAN SOVAK

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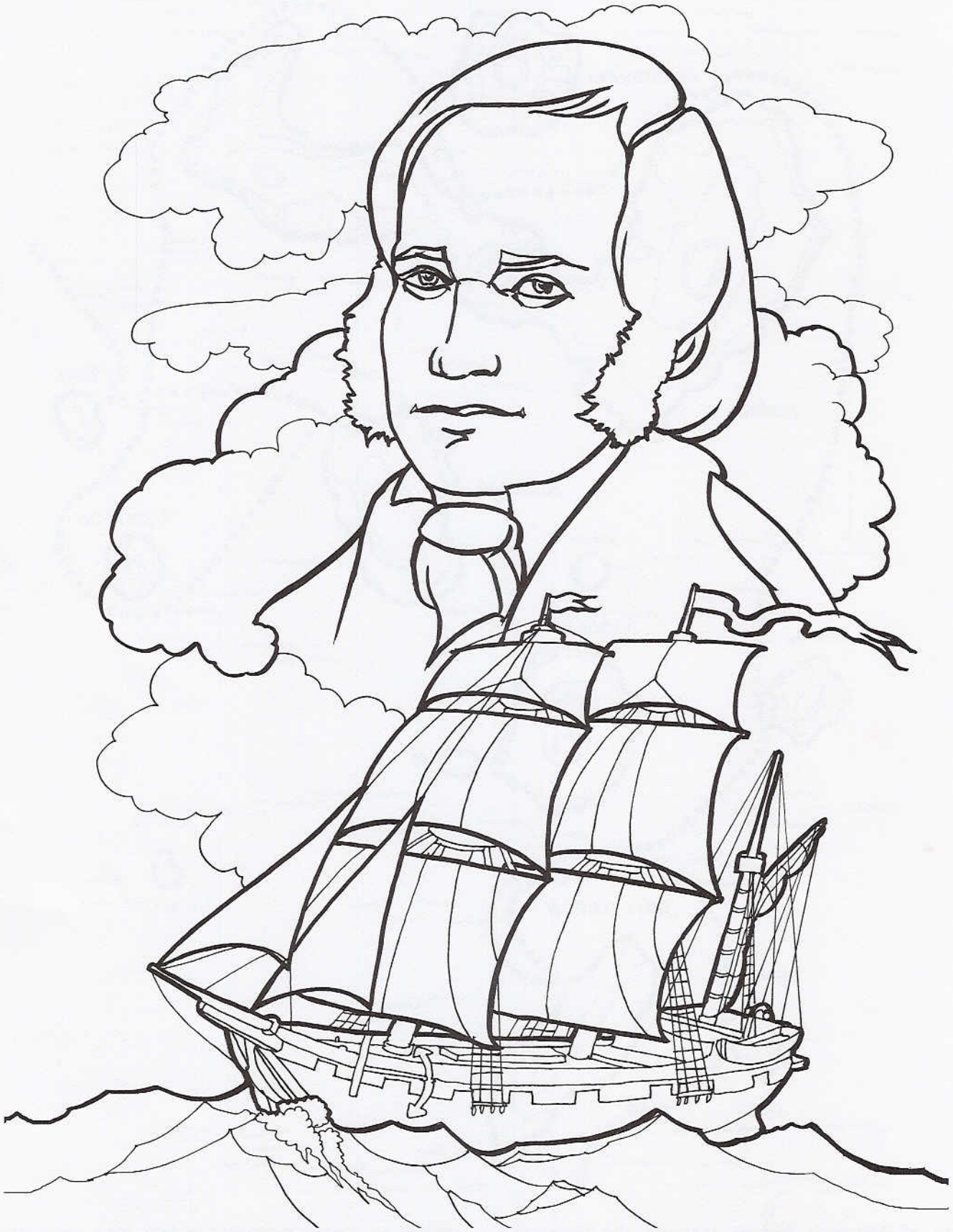
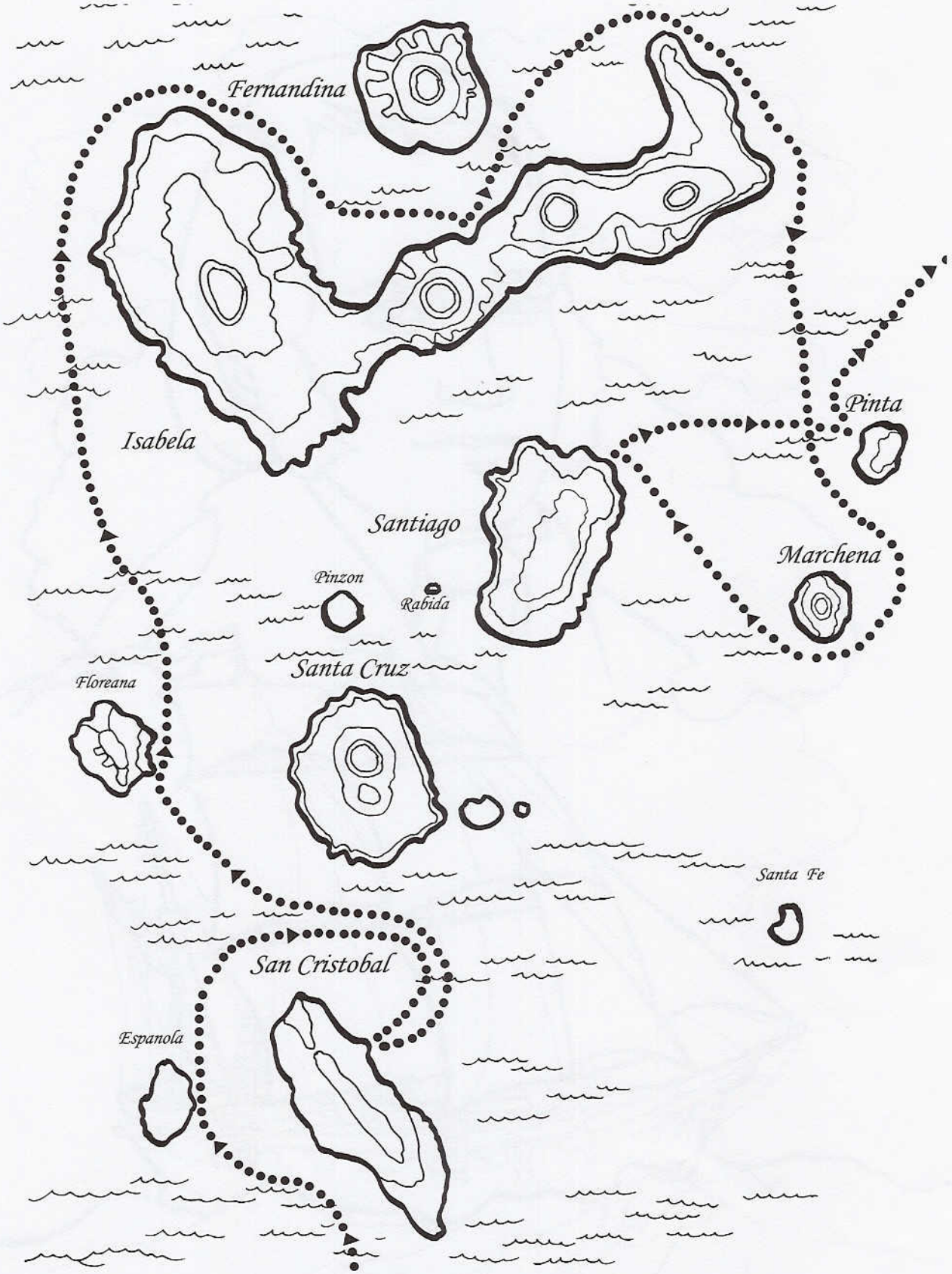
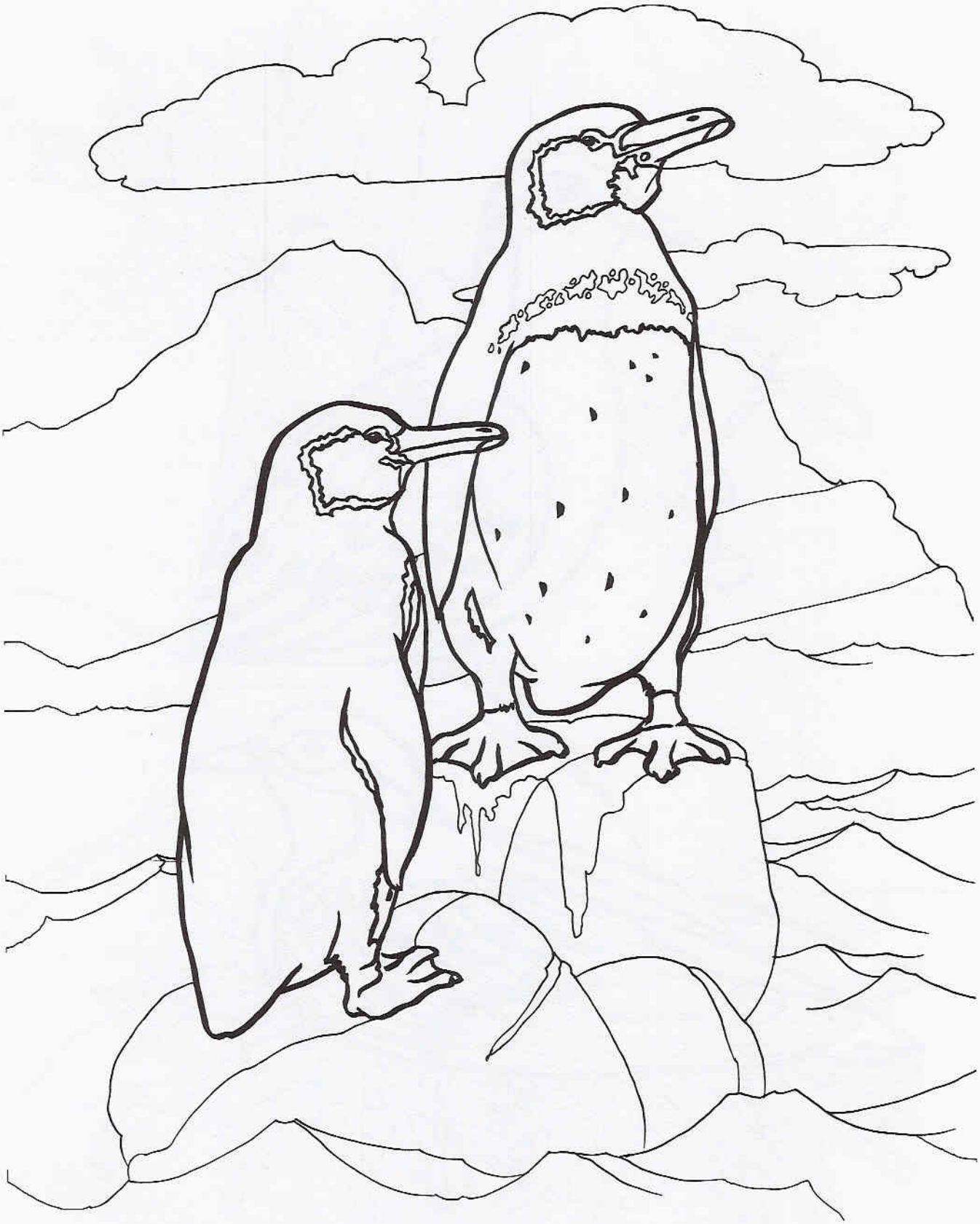


Charles Darwin and H.M.S. *Beagle.* In 1831, a twenty-two-year-old budding English scientist shipped aboard the H.M.S. *Beagle* as the ship's naturalist. During a five-year voyage to South America, the Galapagos Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and other regions, the young Charles Darwin made observations and gathered data that later helped him formulate his groundbreaking theory of evolution, published in his great work, *On the Origin of Species.*



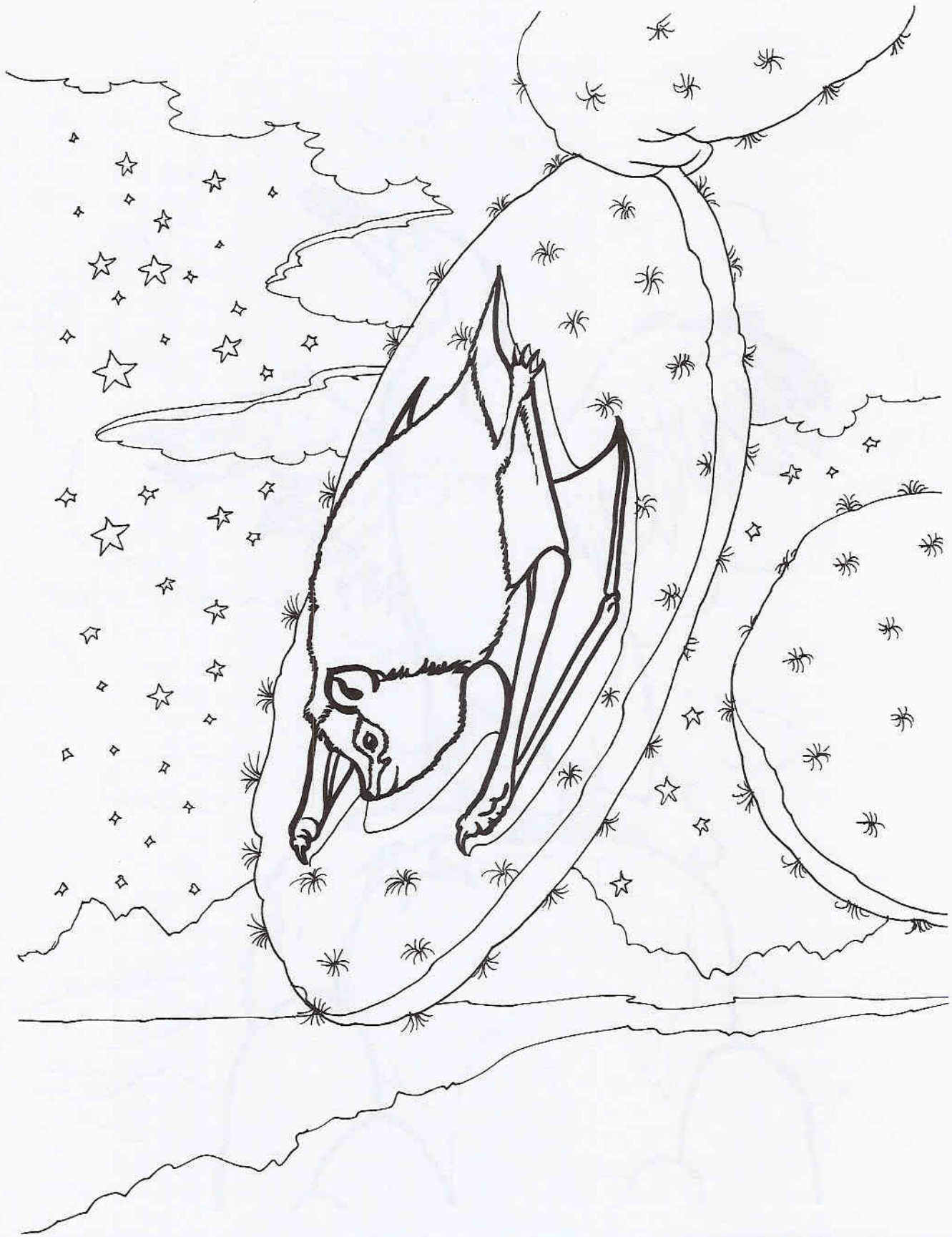
Map of Darwin's Voyage through the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos Islands comprise a group of fourteen main islands, and numerous smaller islands, scattered over 23,000 square miles of equatorial Pacific Ocean. Located 500 to 700 miles off the coast of Ecuador, the islands are largely composed of lava, with many extinct volcanoes. The Galapagos are named for the huge land tortoises (galápago is an old Spanish name for "tortoise") found there, considered among the oldest living creatures on earth.



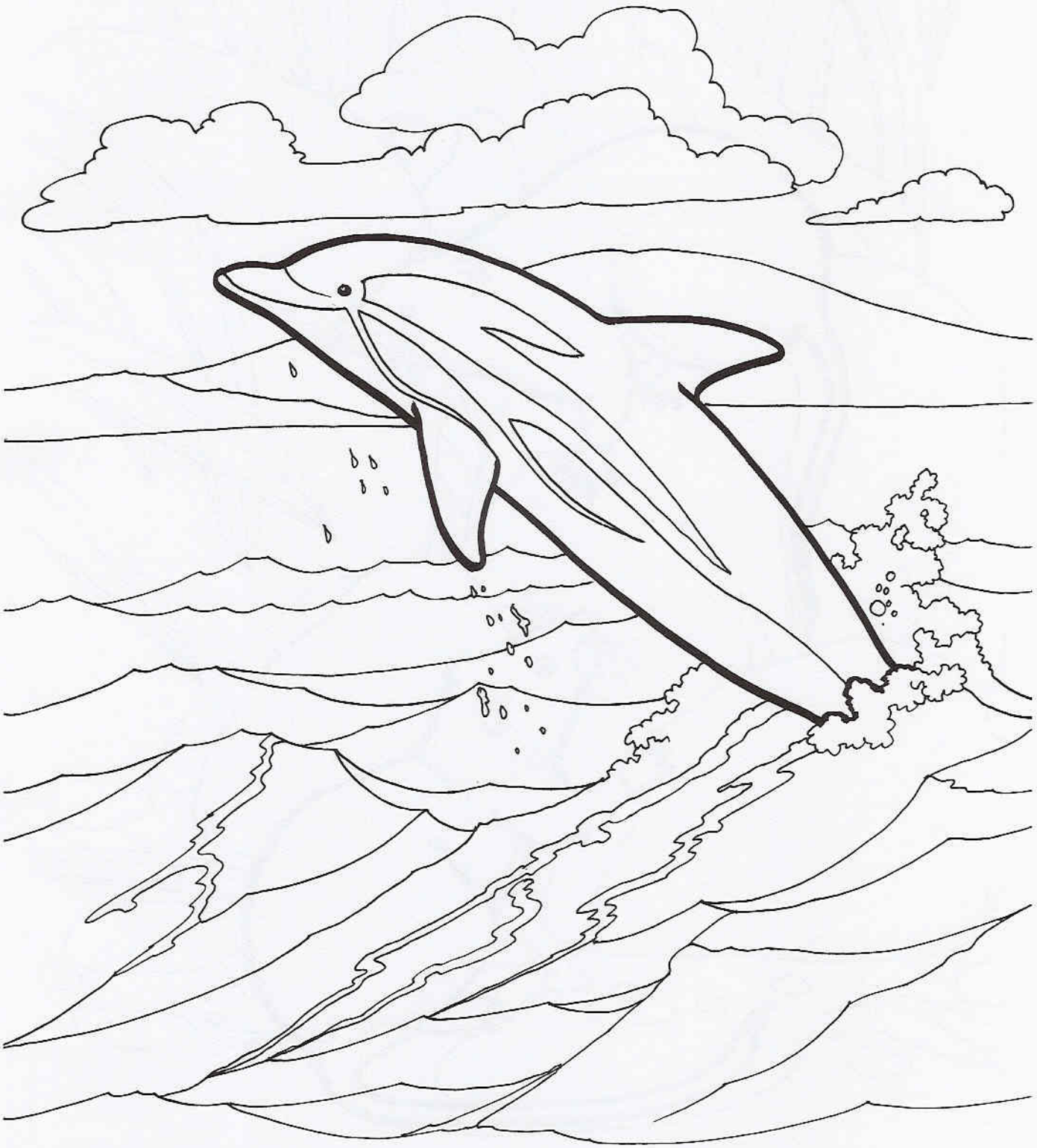
Galapagos Penguin *(Spheniscus mendiculus)*. Found only in the Galapagos Islands, these are the world's smallest penguins, standing sixteen to eighteen inches tall, and weighing about five pounds. They eat mostly small fish, such as mullets and sardines. Adults have bluish-black heads, backs, and flippers. The underside is white, except for a black line along the side and a scattering of feathers on the chest.

Galapagos Dove *(Zenaida galapagoensis)* and **Bitterbush** *(Castela galapageia)*. This dove is found in the more arid parts of the islands, and is most commonly seen on the ground, where it forages for seeds and fruits. The bird's coloring is reddish-brown with black-and-white markings, touches of incandescent green, red feet, and a bright blue eye ring. Bitterbush is a low-growing shrub native to the Galapagos.

Galapagos Flightless Cormorant *(Nannopterum harrisi)*. One of the world's rarest birds, the Galapagos flightless cormorant is the only cormorant that has lost the ability to fly. Instead, it propels itself through the water with kicks of its powerful feet. Because its feathers are not completely waterproof, the cormorant is often seen holding its useless wings out to dry. Standing up to forty inches tall, this cormorant has black feathers, black webbed feet, and a black beak.

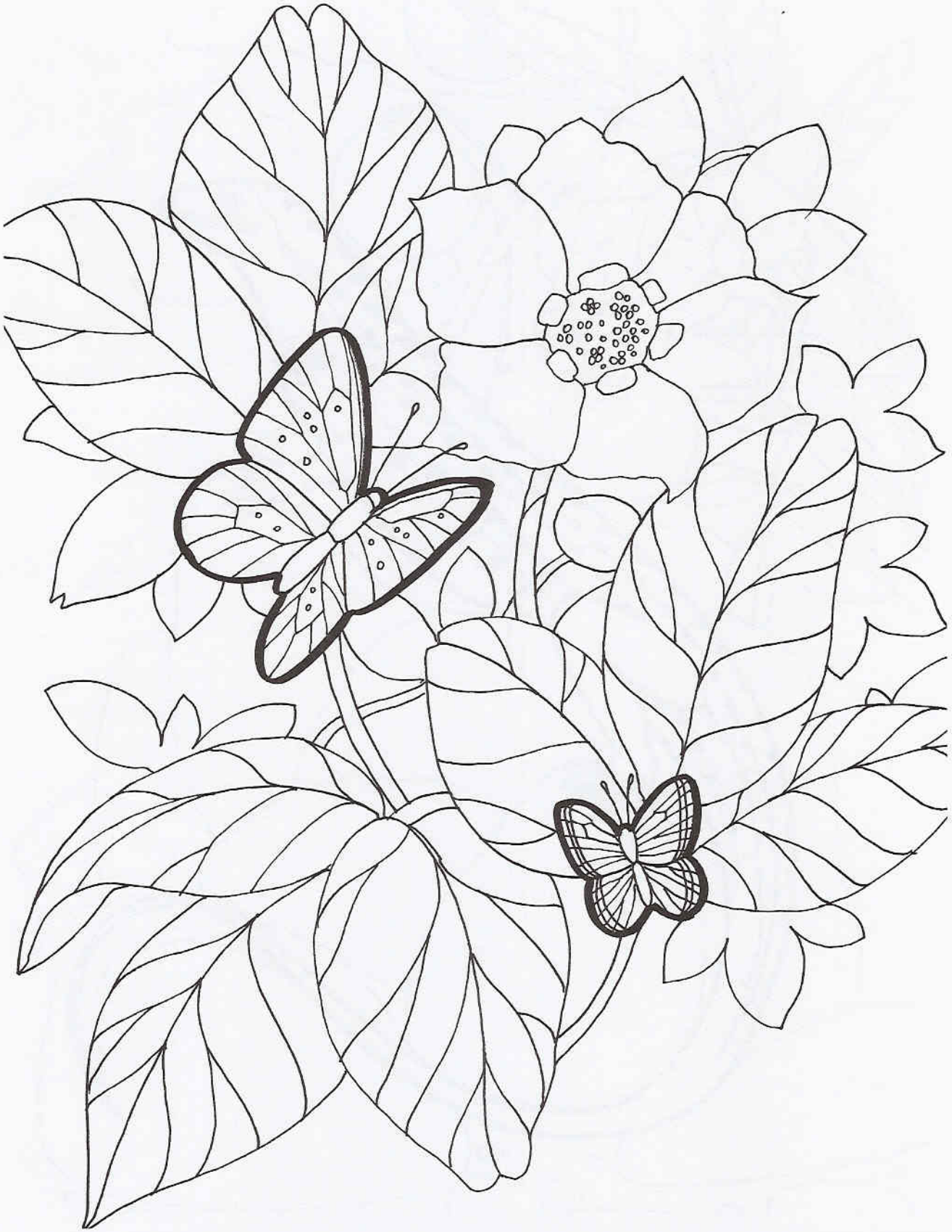


Galapagos Bat *(Lasiurus brachyotis)* on an **Opuntia Cactus** *(Opuntia cactaceae)*. Not much is known about this red bat's life cycle, but the animals are believed to be active at night, when they feed on insects and roost in mangrove trees during the day. It is shown here on a species of prickly pear cactus, whose flat jointed stems are covered with small, stiff hairs and spines.



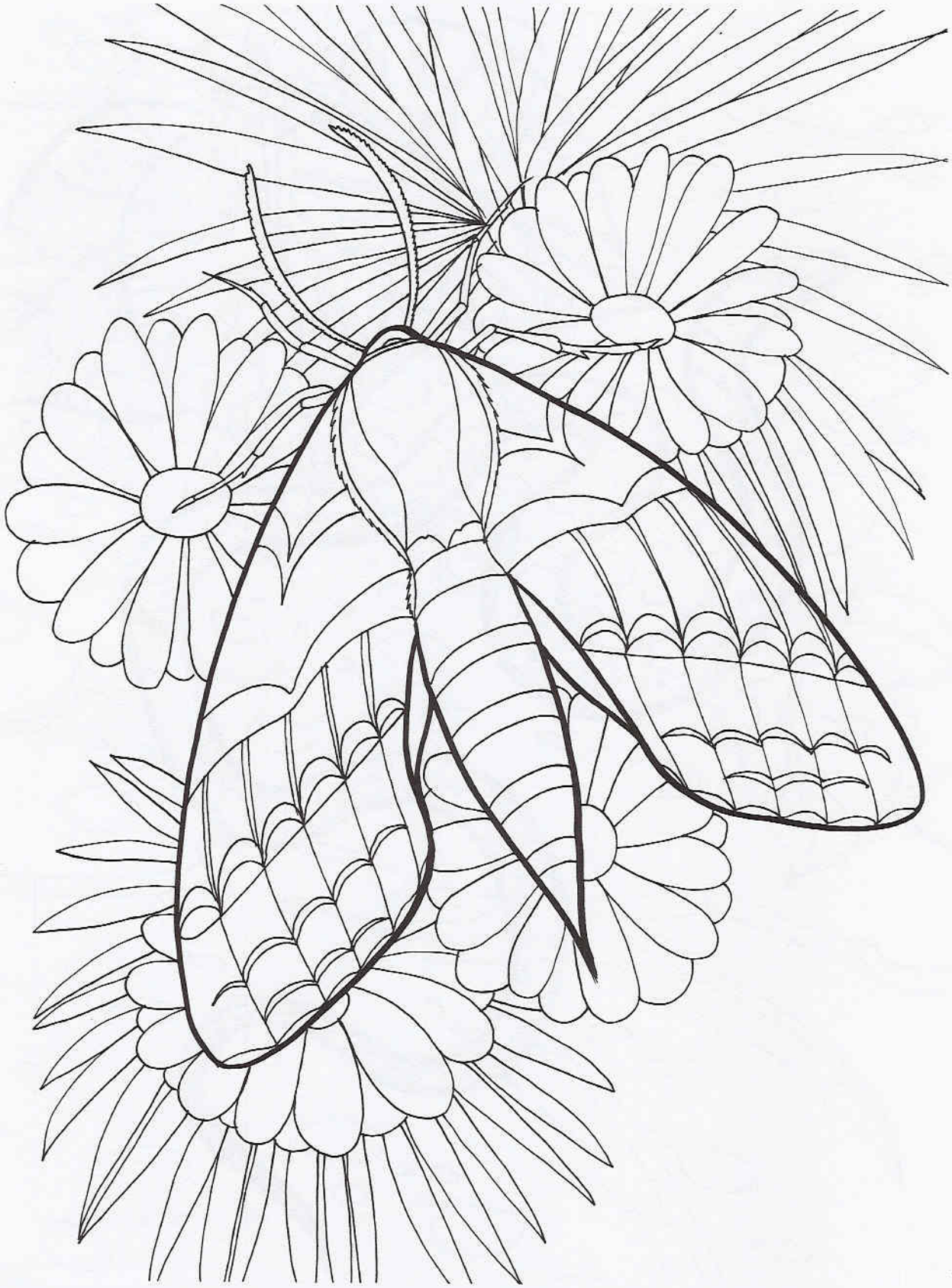
Risso's Dolphin *(Grampus griseus)*. This is a large, oceanic dolphin found in the waters off the Galapagos Islands, as well as in most of the world's tropical and temperate waters. Risso's dolphins grow to about ten feet in length, and weigh up to 650 pounds. Adults are dark gray in color, often with a good deal of white scarring.

Galapagos Rice Rats *(Oryzomys galapagoensis)*. Only three species of rice rats survive in the Galapagos today, but scientists think there may have been up to seven additional species now extinct. Grayish-brown in color, rice rats eat mainly plants and are most active at night. They face fierce competition from introduced rats, feral cats and dogs, and other predators.

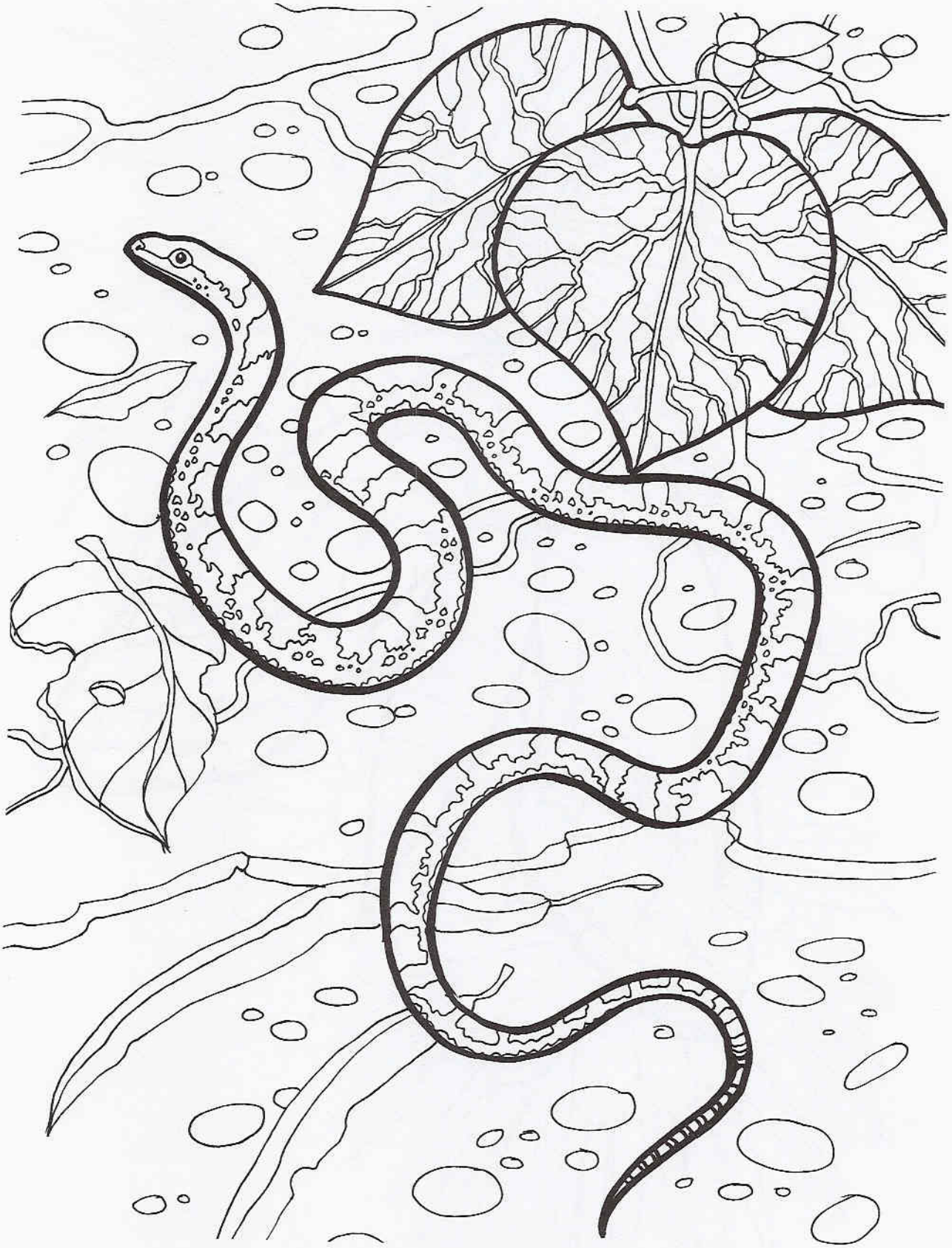


Galapagos Sulphur Butterfly *(Phoebis sennae marcellina)* and **Galapagos Blue Butterfly** *(Leptodes parrhasioides)* on **Galapagos Cotton** *(Gossypium darwinii)*. The Galapagos sulphur butterfly (top left) is the only yellow butterfly in the islands, where it is common and widespread. The Galapagos blue butterfly (lower right) is also widespread, and is known for its fast, fluttering flight as it moves about the vegetation. Both species are shown on the Galapagos cotton plant, which some historians believe was brought to the islands by the Incas. It produces beautiful yellow flowers.

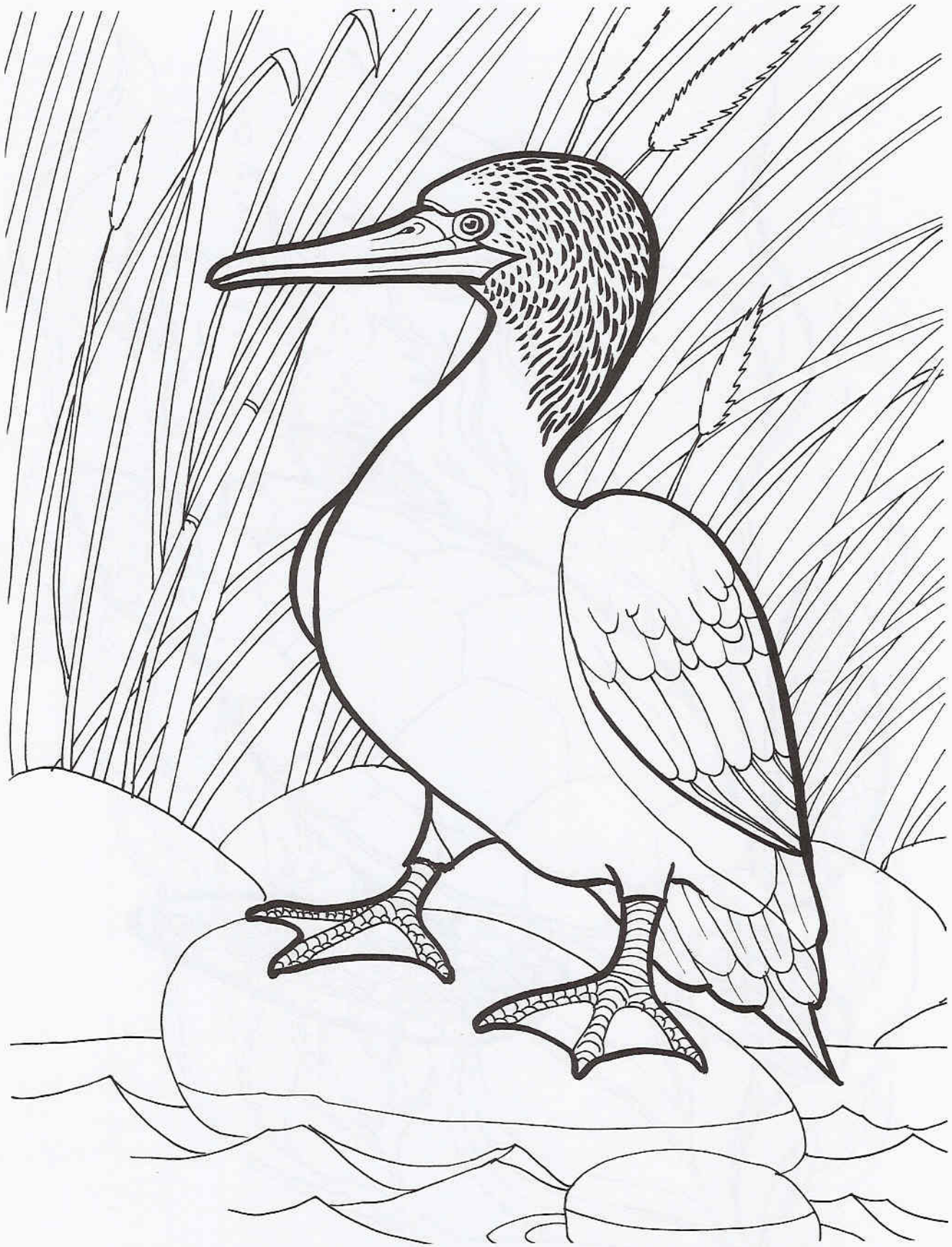
Galapagos Lava Lizard (*Tropidurus* sp.) with **Galapagos Tomatoes** *(Lycopersicon cheesmanii)*. No more than a foot in length, lava lizards inhabit rocky areas, preying on snails, beetles, spiders, ants, and other insects. Colors range from gray and black to red and orange. Females are usually brown with a brilliant slash of scarlet on the face and throat. The Galapagos tomato, native to the islands, is a salt-resistant tomato used to create a hybrid species capable of growing in salty soil around the world.



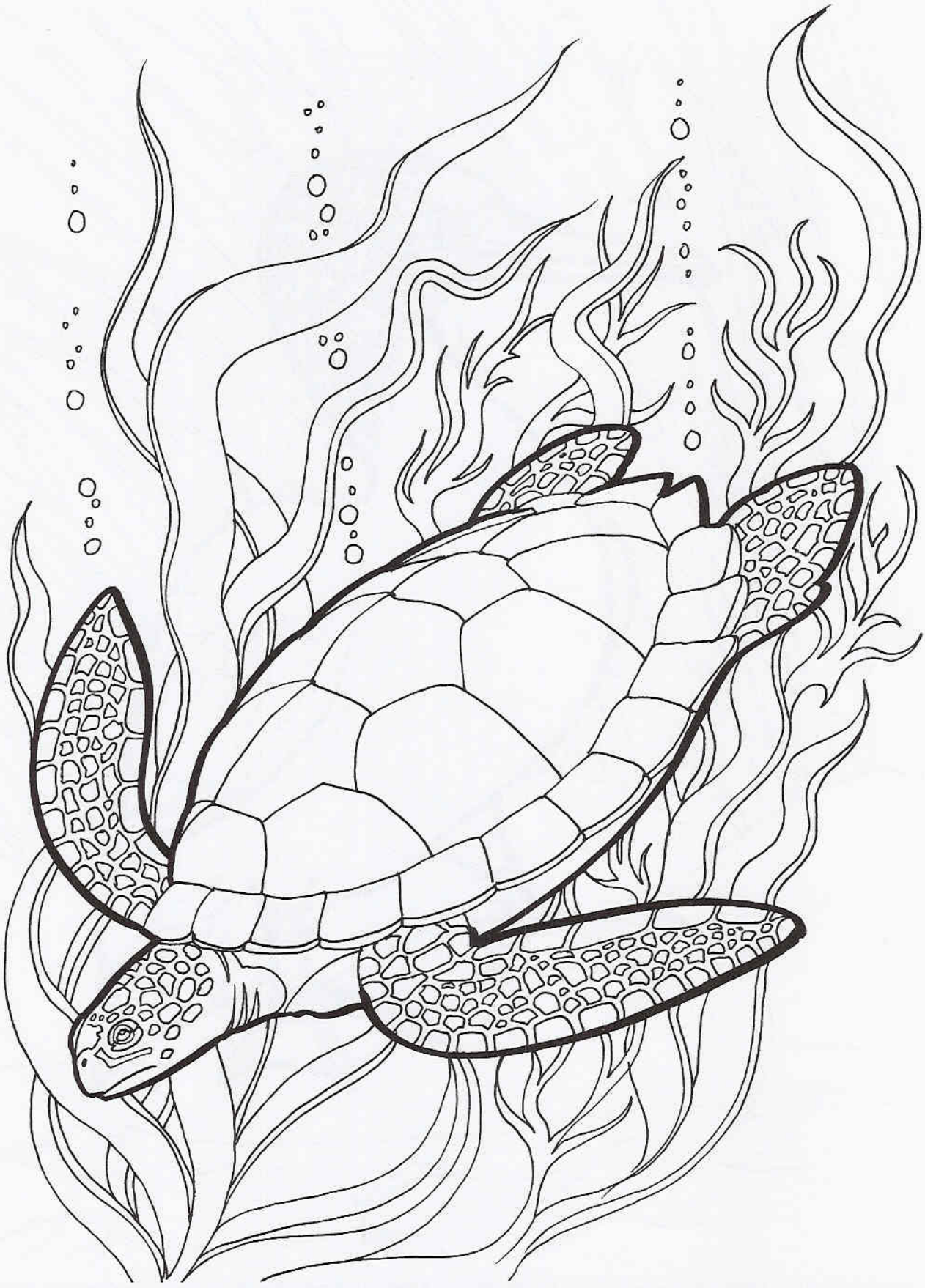
Galapagos Hawkmoth *(Manduca rustica)* on **Lance-leaved Darwin Bush** *(Darwiniothamnus tenuifolius)*. This hawkmoth, endemic to the Galapagos, is large and distinctively colored, with rich brown forewings, marked with white, yellowish brown, and black. Its abdomen is greenish brown, marked laterally with black-margined, yellow patches on each side. The lance-leaved Darwin bush features dense foliage of narrow pointed leaves, with clusters of flowers at the branch tips. The flowers are daisy-like, with white petals and yellow stamens.



Galapagos Banded Snake and **Galapagos Bean** *(Phaseolus mollis)*. There are three species of banded snake in the Galapagos Islands *(Philodryas biserialis, Alsophis slevini,* and *A. dorsalis)*, all of which are endemic (native to the islands), and similar in appearance. Usually two to three feet long, the snakes are brown with yellowish longitudinal stripes. They feed on lava lizards, grasshoppers, geckos, marine iguana hatchlings, and finch nestlings. The Galapagos bean is an annual vine with pea-shaped flowers that are pink or purplish in color.



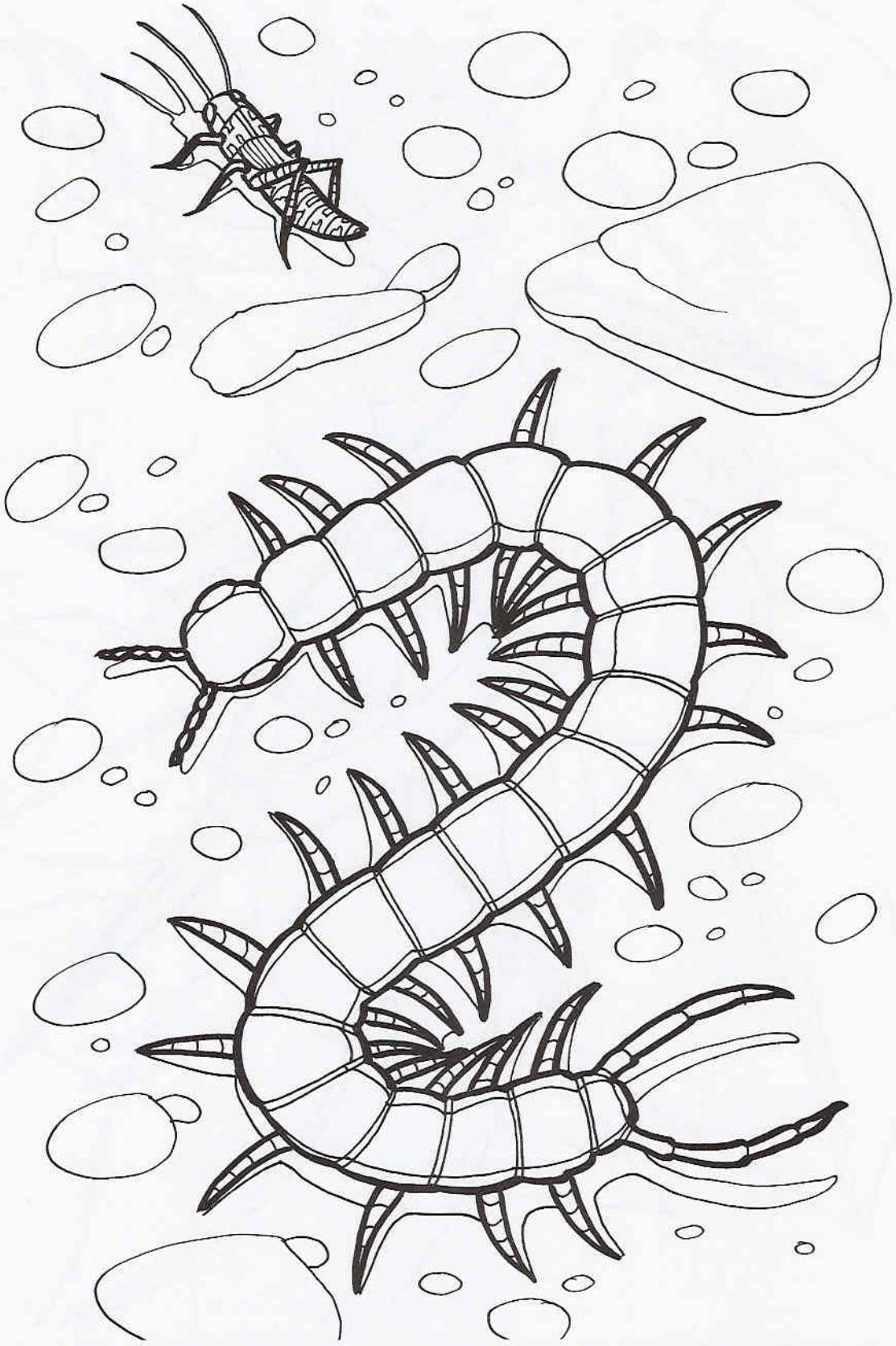
Blue-footed Booby *(Sula Nebouxii)* with **Elephant Grass** *(Pennisetum purpureum)*. Named for their blue legs and feet, blue-footed boobies are long-winged seabirds about the size of geese. They come ashore only to breed. Adults have pale, streaked heads, a dark mantle with white patches on the nape and rump, white bellies and a dark tail. Elephant grass is an introduced species that has spread widely in many areas of the inhabited islands.



Galapagos Green Turtle *(Chelonia mydas)*. The only turtle species that actually nests in the Galapagos, the green turtle survives here in relatively large numbers. These turtles spend most of their lives in the ocean. When nesting, females lay from eighty to a hundred eggs in a hole on the beach.

Tool-using or **Woodpecker Finch** *(Cactospiza pallida)*. This finch has a beak like a woodpecker's. It uses its beak to drill holes in wood, but lacking the long tongue of a true woodpecker, the bird employs a cactus spine held in its beak to extract the insect or grub. The finch's colors range from gray and brown to black or olive.

Giant Longhorn Beetle *(Stenodontes molarius)* and **Spotless Ladybug** *(Cyloneda sanguinea)* on **Wild Cucumber** *(Momordica charantia)*. One of the largest beetles in the world, the giant longhorn beetle can be over six inches long, with large antennae and powerful jaws. Its larvae are an important food source for the woodpecker finch. There are over 5,000 ladybug species worldwide, most of them spotted; however, the spotless ladybug found in the Galapagos boasts a shiny red, orange, or yellow shell with no spots. The wild cucumber is a climbing vine with yellow flowers and oval dark yellow or orange fruits.



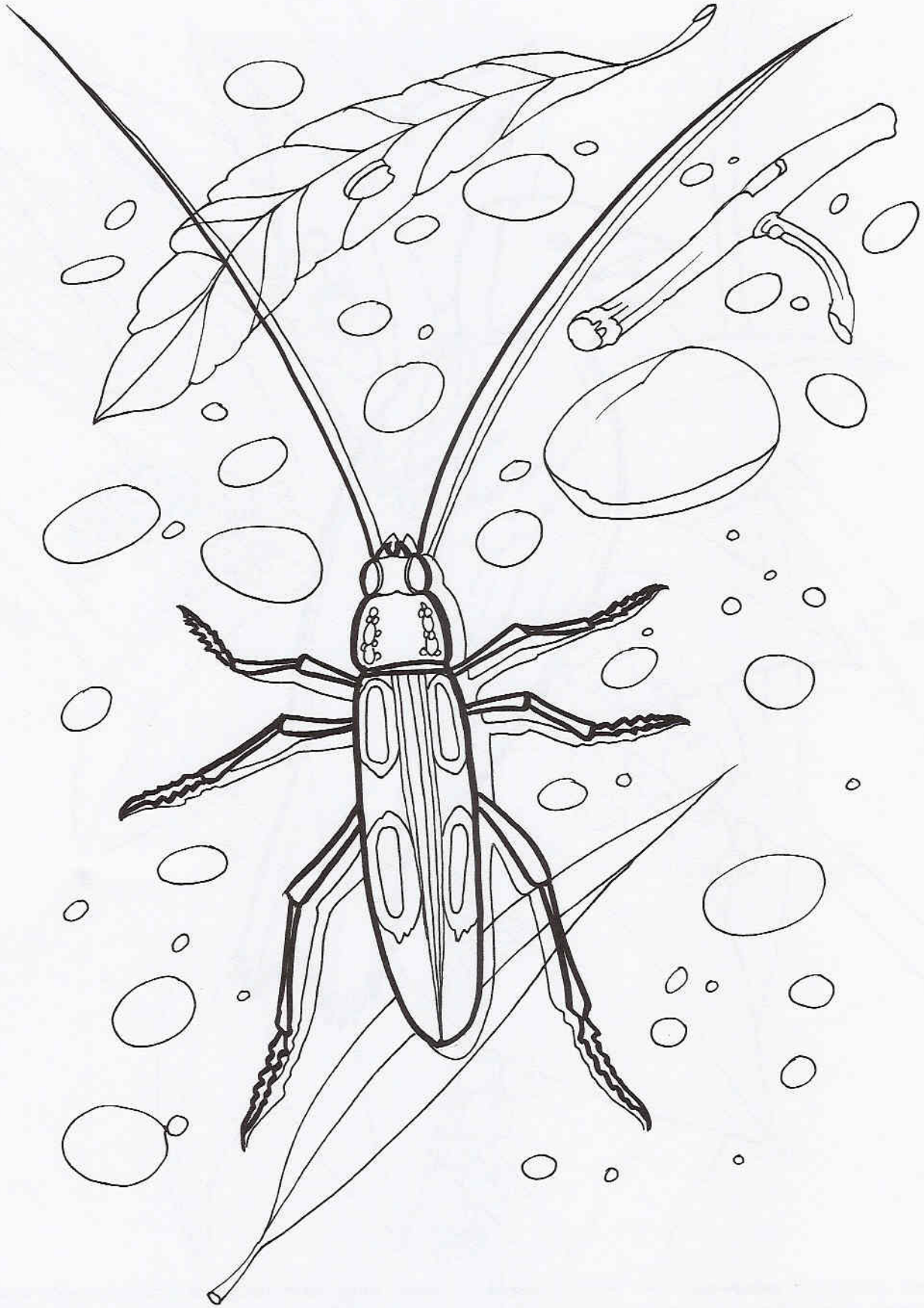
Galapagos Giant Centipede *(Scolopendra galapagensis)* and **Galapagos Flightless Grasshopper** *(Halemus robustus)*. The giant centipede native to the Galapagos preys by night on insects, lizards, and even small birds. Dark brown with reddish legs, the centipede kills its victim with venom injected through the tips of its claws. The bite of this centipede is very painful to humans. The Galapagos flightless grasshopper, one of four flightless species of this genus, is well camouflaged by its brown coloration.

Galapagos Mockingbird *(Nesomimus parvulus)* on **Poison Apple Tree** *(Hippomane mancinella)*. Mockingbirds, or mocking-thrushes, as Darwin called them, first drew the great naturalist's attention to the strange diversity of species within the archipelago. The Galapagos mockingbird has a gray-and-white head with black eye patch, white, gray and brown feathers, and black feet and beak. Like other mockingbirds in the Galapagos, it is very curious, and unafraid of people. The poison apple is a common tree in the drier areas of the islands. It is highly toxic to most creatures.

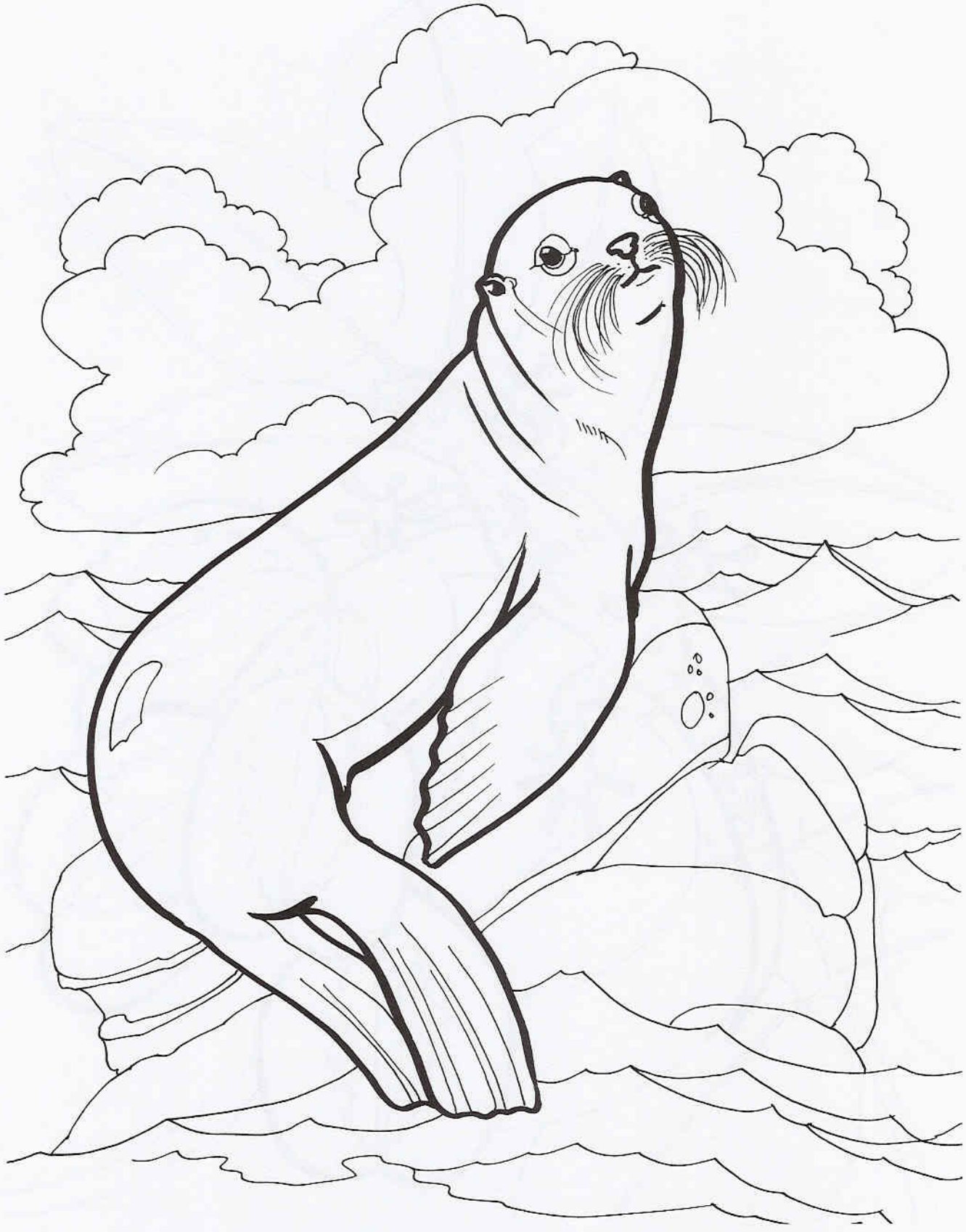
Galapagos Large Ground Finch *(Geospiza magnirostris)* and **Flame Tree** *(Erythrina velutina)*. The large ground finch, as you might guess from its name, seeks its food on the ground or in low shrubs. Its big bill enables it to crack open hard seeds. Adult males are black, while females have streaked brown feathers. The flame tree, featuring beautiful red, pink, or purple flowers, grows in the arid and transitional zones of several of the islands.

Galapagos Rail *(Laterallus spilonotus)* with **Hand Fern** *(Doryopteris pedata)* and **Maidenhair Fern** *(Adiantum pedatum)*. The rail is a small, nearly flightless ground bird with dark plumage. Black overall, with grayer head and breast, it has white spots on its back, a scarlet eye, black bill, and short, almost useless wings. The hand fern (top) is a small fern with hand-shaped fronds. The maidenhair fern (bottom) is widespread, low-growing, and thrives in moist, shady areas.

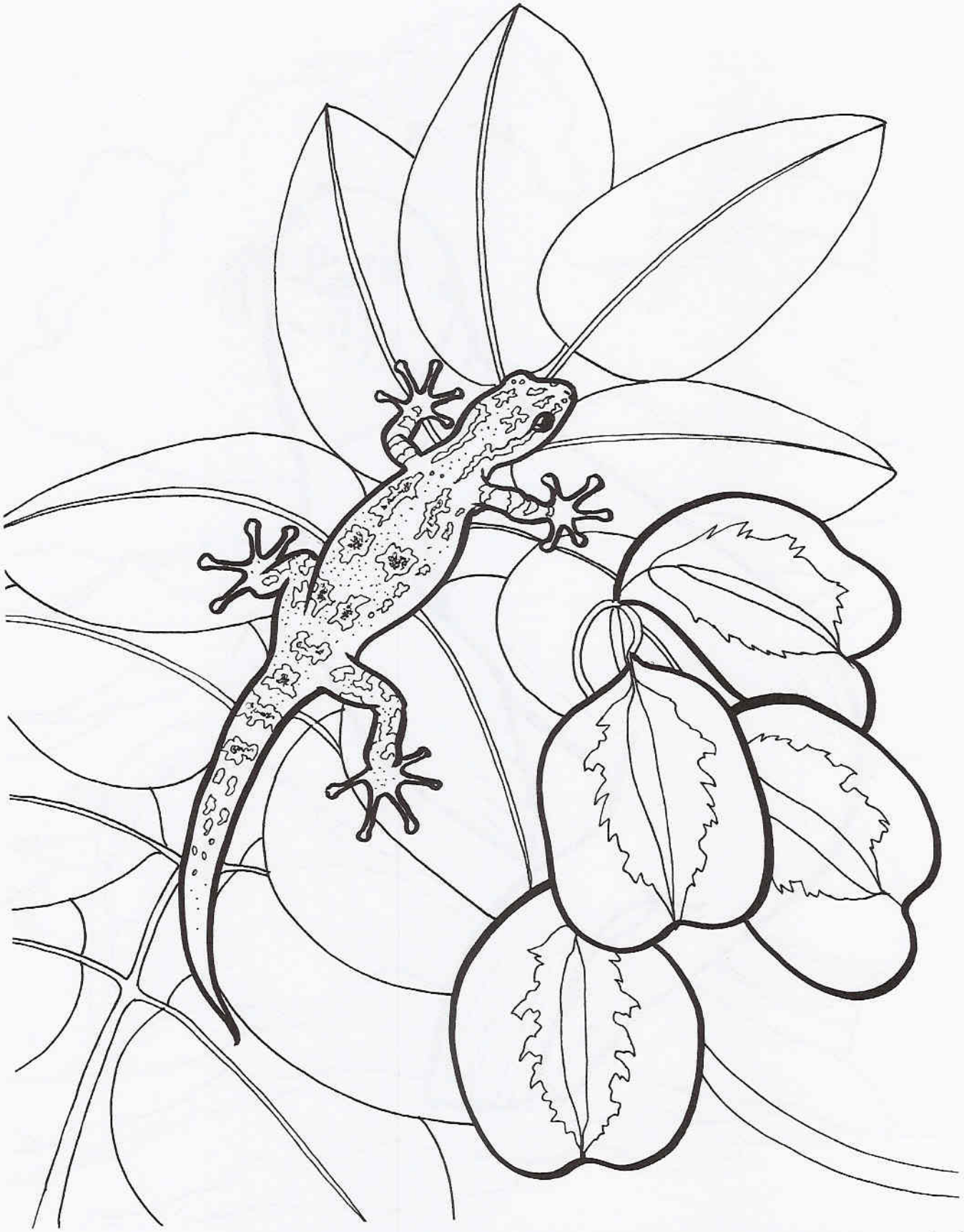
Bobolink *(Dolichonyx oryzivorous)* on a **Rufous-haired Tournefortia Shrub** *(Tournefortia rufo-serica)*. Bobolinks are migrating birds from North America and Canada that commonly winter in South America, and have been observed in the Galapagos Islands. Usually six to eight inches long, males are largely black with white rump and tail, and dull yellow nape. Females are a rich buff-yellow, streaked on back and crown. The rufous-haired tournefortia, a member of the borage family of plants, displays glossy green leaves and tiny white flowers.



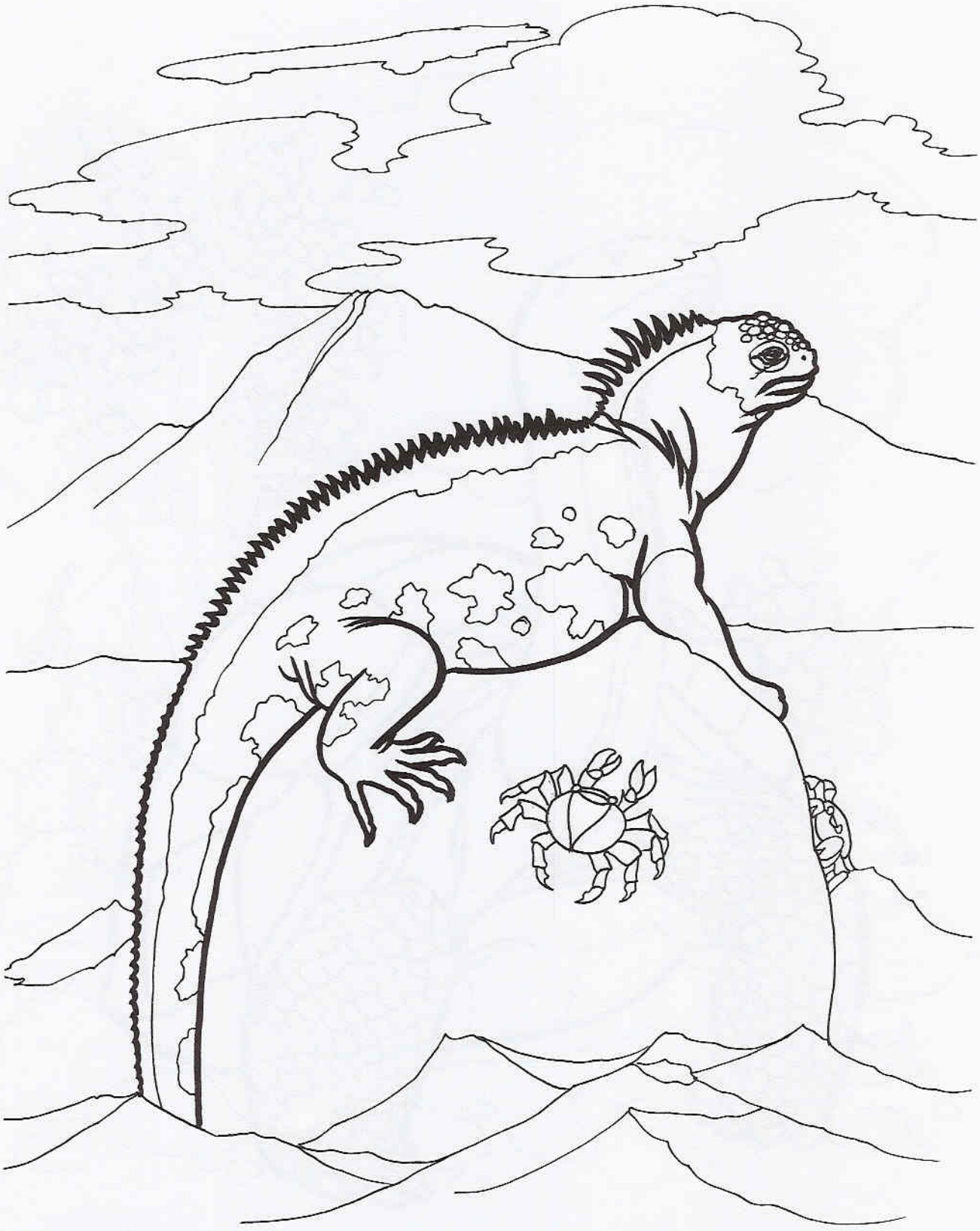
Squeak Bug *(Eburia lanigera)*. This common beetle gets its name from its ability to squeak when picked up, a defense mechanism that helps protect it from predatory birds. Possessed of very long antennae and long legs, the squeak bug is a uniform gray in color with yellowish spots.



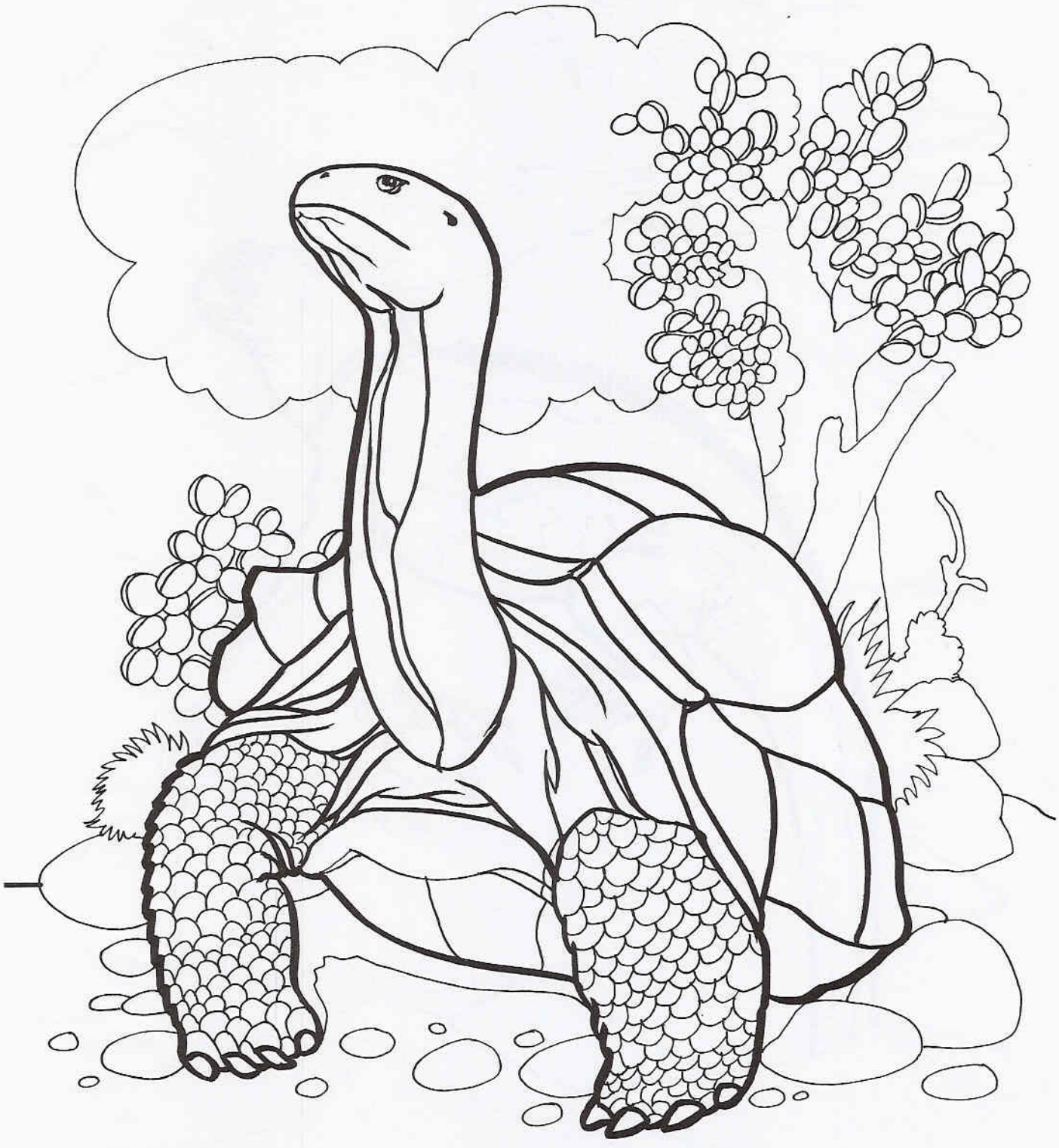
Galapagos Fur Seal *(Arctocephalus galapagoensis)*. One of two species of sea lion native to the Galapagos Islands, the Galapagos fur seal is the smallest of all fur seals and is found only in the Galapagos. During the 1800s, it was heavily hunted for its thick, grayish-brown fur, but is now protected under Ecuadorian law. These fur seals feed at night on fish, squid, and octopus.



Galapagos Leaf-toed Gecko *(Phyllodactylus galapagoensis)* **on Matazarno Tree** *(Piscidia carthagenensis)* **Leaf.** This species of gecko is rarely seen because of its nocturnal habits and preference for hiding under rocks and dead trees. Its diet consists solely of insects, which its large eyes and quick speed enable it to see and catch. The gecko is shown here on a matazarno tree, a species found on most of the islands in transition areas.



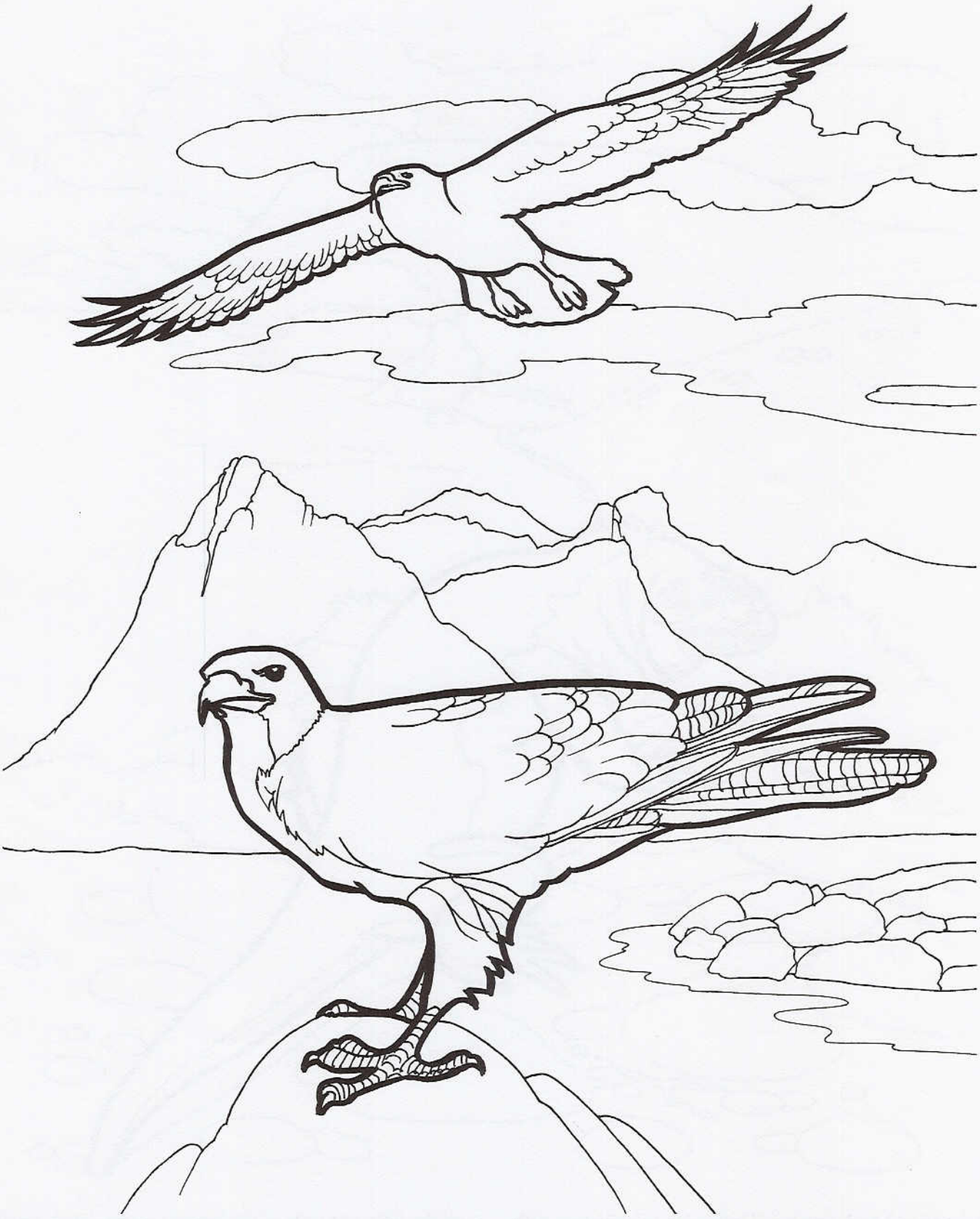
Galapagos Marine Iguana *(Amblyrhynchus cristatus)* and **Sally Lightfoot Crabs** *(Grapsus grapsus)*. Although they look like fierce prehistoric dragons, marine iguanas are actually peaceful vegetarians that feed mainly on seaweed and algae. They have long, sharp claws that help them cling to rocks in rough seas. Young marine iguanas are black, while adults can be a combination of black, green, red, and gray. Sally lightfoot crabs are named for their ability to scamper across the rocks like the famous nineteenth-century Spanish dancer. These crabs are bright red, with blue undersides and yellow claw tips. They are scavengers that feed on a variety of living and dead material, including other crabs.



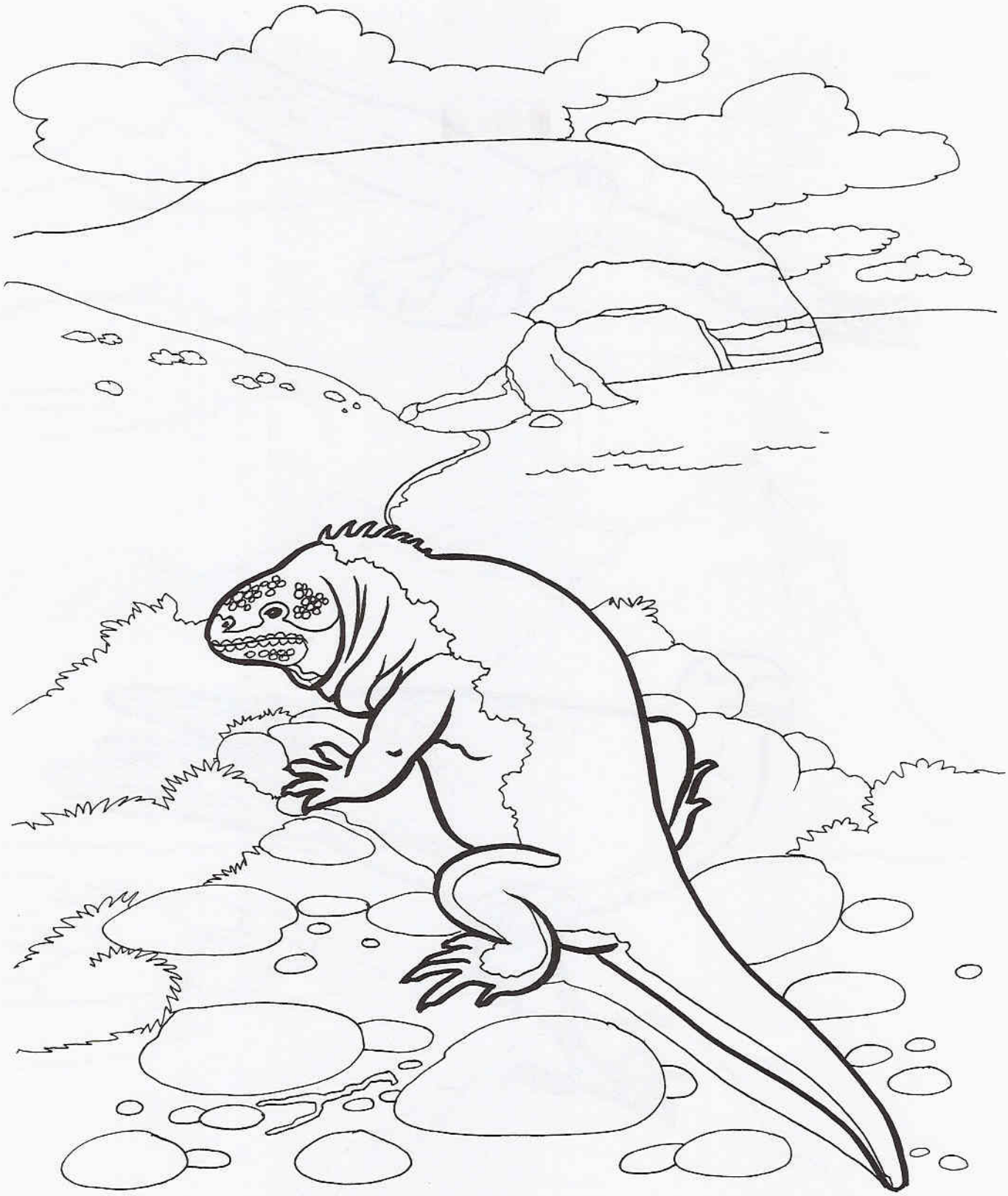
Galapagos Giant Tortoise *(Geochelone elephantopus)* with **Giant Prickly Pear Cactus** *(Opuntia echios Howell)*. Perhaps the best known of all the Galapagos Islands animals, the giant tortoise can weigh over 500 pounds and live more than 100 years. During the 1800s, their numbers were considerably reduced by whalers and fur sealers, who killed them for food and oil. Active much of the day, the tortoises are vegetarians and eat a wide variety of plants. In mating season, the females lay between two and sixteen eggs the size of tennis balls. Coloring ranges from gray and black to dull brown. The giant prickly pear cactus has reddish-brown bark and branches at the top with green oval pads covered with clusters of long spines. These cacti are food for tortoises and land iguanas.

Galapagos Vermilion Flycatcher *(Pyrocephalus rubinus)* on **Angel's Trumpet** (*Brugmansia* sp.). The sparrow-sized vermilion flycatcher is one of the most colorful species in the islands. The male is a striking red below and on its crown, with a dark stripe through the eye, while the female sports a pale yellow vest. The bird often sits on a favorite perch, then takes off on a circular flight to catch an insect, and returns to the exact same place. Angel's trumpet is a large, dramatic shrub bearing big, pendulous yellow flowers, usually with a sweet scent.

Great Frigate Bird *(Fregata minor)* with **Galapagos Purslane** *(Portulaca howellii)* in foreground. Male frigate birds are black with a red patch or sac of skin at their throats. During mating season they inflate the sac, causing it to expand into a large red balloon, which attracts the female. They then roost in low vegetation and await her arrival. Purslane is a low-growing plant with round green leaves, reddish stems, and small yellow flowers. It has been used in salads and as a medicinal plant for hundreds of years.



Galapagos Hawks *(Buteo galapagoensis)* with **Cinder Cones** in the background. Similar in size and shape to red-tailed hawks, Galapagos hawks are the only daytime bird of prey in the islands. They hunt lizards, rats, doves, iguanas, grasshoppers, and even small goats. Adults are a sooty brownish-black with a gray tail barred with darker stripes. The beak is grayish black, while the legs and the soft skin at the base of the beak are yellow. Cinder cones are vertical rock formations created by the consolidation of hardened volcanic ash.



Galapagos Land Iguana *(Conolophus subcristatus)* with **Buccaneer's Cove** in the background. Hunting and predation by non-native predators have greatly reduced the numbers of land iguanas since Darwin visited the islands. Fortunately, conservation efforts are helping restore the species. These iguanas are vegetarians, subsisting mainly on the fruit and pads of the opuntia cactus. Their tough, scaly skin is yellowish-white with scattered patches of white, black, brown, and rust. Buccaneer's Cove is home to large numbers of sea lions, but in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, it was a place where pirates and other sailors hauled their ships ashore to clean the hulls.